

## **SCORE work plan: 2011 - 2012**

### **Background**

SCORE (Science Community Representing Education) is a partnership between the Association for Science Education, the Institute of Physics, the Royal Society, the Royal Society of Chemistry, and the Society of Biology. Launched in September 2006 and chaired by Professor Graham Hutchings, the SCORE partnership aims to bring collective action and a strategic approach to strengthening science education, and believes that the key to maximising the impact of its efforts lies in a greater degree of collaboration and in having a sense of common purpose.

### **Strategic aims**

In pursuit of these principles the SCORE partners' aims are:

1. SCORE aims to inform and unite the science and science education communities on key issues in science education policy, challenging and advising makers and influencers.
2. SCORE aims to increase the influence and effectiveness of the partner organisations by providing a coherent, independent voice for the science community in support of education
3. SCORE develops evidence-based policy embracing the following areas:
  1. curriculum
  2. qualifications and assessment
  3. schools and colleges workforce
  4. the education system.

### **SCORE 2011-2012**

During 2010-2011, the SCORE partnership has modified the way it works. The SCORE partners will sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the partner organisations in April 2011. The MoU outlines the aims of SCORE and details SCORE's working methods, as well as the financial contribution each partner organisation is making to fund the collaboration. SCORE will have five partners from 1 April 2011 (ASE, IOP, RSC, the Royal Society and the Society of Biology) and thus provide a strong voice for the core sciences taught in schools.

The SCORE Chair now meets regularly with the CEOs of the SCORE partner organisations. The SCORE Committee continues to meet regularly, holding approximately eight formal meetings each year. These meetings are used to discuss emerging policy issues and set the direction of any required research. Informal meetings between the organisations continue as before. In addition, SCORE now establishes task and finish groups for policy areas. The members of task and finish groups are drawn from a wide range of organisations, providing the SCORE partners with additional expertise.

During early 2011-2012, SCORE will review the recommendations made in the final evaluation report and prepare and implement an action plan to address the recommendations.

## **SCORE programme of activities**

### **A Science education policy research projects**

In 2011, SCORE will commence the following research project:

1. The first, *Resourcing of Science in Schools* will review the resourcing requirements of schools delivering a practical science curriculum (laboratories, equipment and technician support). It will then compare the actual resourcing of science departments with the requirements identified by the SCORE partners.

SCORE will complete one research project commenced in 2009/10.

2. The *mathematics in science research* will report in March 2012, and will inform the development of 14-19 science qualifications. The research will focus on the mathematical skills that 14-19 year olds need to access science at levels 1-3.

### **B Providing guidance on science education policy**

1. Provide advice on the content and structure of the National Curriculum for science.
2. Advise on the implementation of the new National Curriculum to ensure that science specific teaching and learning needs are satisfied.
3. Provide input to future policy for content and assessment of science GCSEs in the context of the new National Curriculum.
4. Continue to advise Government regarding qualification development. This includes input into the development of new arrangements for involving higher education and learned societies in the development of A levels, and any future review of level 3 science qualifications .
5. Continue to provide advice on primary science, including the curriculum and its assessment.
6. Provide advice on the recruitment, retention and deployment of the teaching workforce.
7. Provide advice on the policy issues raised in the Wolf Review of Vocational Education.
8. Continue to provide advice on the enablers and barriers to progression to Higher Education in STEM.
9. Continue to provide policy advice on barriers and enablers to practical work in science, with a particular focus on the resources required to ensure schools and colleges are able to deliver high quality practical work in science.
10. Advise on other policy issues as necessary.

### **C Informing and uniting the science community**

1. Deliver at least 4 discussion seminars or workshops for the science community on science education issues.
2. Continue to maintain the SCORE website, which is not funded by DfE, and to provide a SCORE monthly electronic newsletter.

3. To contribute to advisory groups as appropriate.
4. Continue to work with ACME and E4E to complement the other committees' work and ensure joined up approaches to common policy issues.